

Claims:

1. (currently amended) An e-mail processing method comprising:

sending, from a mail server for performing a mail delivery process to mail clients, mail attribute information indicating an attribute of an e-mail for ~~said~~the mail client in a data format, the data format enabling said mail client to display ~~said~~the mail attribute information by executing a document browsing program;

receiving, in ~~said~~the mail client, mail attribute information transmitted from ~~said~~the mail server, and displaying the received mail attribute information in accordance with ~~said~~the document browsing program;

accepting, in ~~said~~the mail client, an operation to select an e-mail selected by a user from among e-mails corresponding to ~~said~~the displayed mail attribute information; sending from ~~said~~the mail client to ~~said~~the mail server, identification information for identifying an e-mail selected by ~~said~~the user;

receiving in ~~said~~the mail server, identification information transmitted from ~~said~~the mail client, and sending to ~~said~~the mail client, predetermined character strings for instructing ~~said~~the mail client to process data transmitted from the mail server to ~~said~~the mail client in accordance with an e-mail processing program, prior to or along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information

when receiving predetermined character strings transmitted from ~~predetermined character strings~~the mail server, storing, in accordance with an e-mail processing program by ~~said~~the mail client in a nonvolatile memory, an e-mail transmitted from ~~said~~the mail server.

2. (currently amended) An e-mail delivery method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, in ~~said~~the mail client, an instruction to suspend delivery from ~~said~~the mail server of an e-mail selected from among ~~said~~the displayed e-mails, and sending from ~~said~~the mail client identification information for specifying the selected e-mail to ~~said~~the mail server;

wherein ~~said~~the mail server receives identification information transmitted from ~~said~~the mail client, and in the next mail attribute sending step, sends mail attribute information of an e-mail whose delivery is to be suspended, the e-mail being specified by the identification information.

3. (currently amended) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,
wherein ~~said~~the mail server and ~~said~~the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and ~~said~~the predetermined character strings are written in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol.

4. (currently amended) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,
wherein ~~said~~the mail server and ~~said~~the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and ~~said~~the mail client, in the step of sending identification information, sends to ~~said~~the mail server identification information for specifying ~~said~~the selected e-mail by using a POST method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

5. (currently amended) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,
wherein ~~said~~the mail server and ~~said~~the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and when ~~said~~the mail server sends to ~~said~~the mail client ~~said~~the predetermined character strings prior to sending an e-mail identified by ~~said~~the identification information, ~~said~~the mail client requests ~~said~~the mail server to transmit ~~said~~the e-mail by transmitting a request to ~~said~~the mail server, the request using a GET method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

6. (currently amended) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 5,
wherein when sending ~~said~~the e-mail to ~~said~~the mail client, ~~said~~the mail server writes in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol in a predetermined order identification information for identifying an e-mail to be transmitted this time, and identification information for identifying an e-mail to be transmitted subsequently and transmits them to ~~said~~the mail client; and

~~said~~the mail client writes in a request header of a hyper text transfer protocol in a predetermined order, ~~said~~the two pieces of identification information written in a header of the received hyper text transfer protocol, and requests ~~said~~the mail server to send ~~said~~the e-mail to be subsequently transmitted by transmitting a request header of a hyper text transfer protocol to ~~said~~the mail server; and ~~said~~the mail server identifies an e-mail to be sent on the basis of ~~said~~the predetermined order of ~~said~~the two pieces of identification information in a request header of the received hyper text transfer protocol, and sends the specified e-mail to ~~said~~the mail client.

7. (currently amended) A mail server for performing a mail delivering process to a mail client; ~~said~~the mail server comprising:

an attribute information sending ~~means for sending~~unit configured to send to the mail client mail attribute information in a displayable data format enabling the mail client to indicate the e-mail attribute information in accordance with a document browsing program, the mail attribute information indicating an e-mail attribute for ~~said~~the mail client;

an identification information reception ~~means for receiving~~unit configured to receive identification information of an e-mail transmitted from ~~said~~the mail client; and

a character string sending ~~means for sending~~unit configured to send to ~~said~~the mail client, predetermined character strings for instructing ~~said~~the mail client to process data transmitted from the mail server to ~~said~~the mail client in accordance with an e-mail processing program, prior to or along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information.

8. (currently amended) A mail server according to Claim 7,

wherein ~~a~~the mail server is configured to send~~[[s]]~~ and receive~~[[s]]~~ data with ~~said~~the mail client in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and ~~said~~the character string sending ~~means~~unit is configured to send ~~these~~~~sends~~~~said~~ predetermined character strings to ~~said~~the mail client by writing the predetermined character strings in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol.

9. (currently amended) A mail client which receives e-mails from a mail server; ~~said~~the mail client comprising:

an attribute information reception ~~means for receiving~~unit configured to receive, mail attribute information transmitted from ~~said~~the mail server, the mail attribute information indicating an e-mail attribute for the mail client;

a display ~~means for displaying~~unit configured to display ~~said~~the received mail attribute information by following the processes written in a document browsing program;

an accepting ~~means for accepting~~unit configured to accept an operation to select an e-mail selected by a user from among e-mails corresponding to ~~said~~the displayed mail attribute information;

an identification information sending ~~means for sending~~unit configured to send from ~~said~~the mail client to ~~said~~the mail server, identification information for identifying an e-mail selected by ~~said~~the user; and

a storing ~~means for~~device configured to, upon receiving predetermined character strings transmitted from ~~predetermined character strings~~the mail server, ~~storing~~store, in accordance with an e-mail processing program by ~~said~~the mail client in a nonvolatile memory, an e-mail transmitted from ~~said~~the mail server.

10. (currently amended) A mail client according to Claim 9,

wherein a ~~the~~ mail client is configured to send[[s]] and receive[[s]] data with ~~said~~the mail client in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and ~~said~~the identification information sending ~~means-unit is configured to send[[s]]~~ to ~~said~~the mail server identification information for specifying ~~said~~the selected e-mail by using a POST method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

11. (currently amended) A mail client according to Claim 9,

wherein ~~said~~the mail server and ~~said~~the mail client are configured to mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol, and ~~said~~the mail server is configured to send[[s]] to ~~said~~the mail client ~~said~~the predetermined

character strings prior to sending an e-mail identified by ~~said~~the identification information; ~~said~~the mail client comprising,

the mail client includes a requesting means for unit configured to requesting-
~~said~~the mail server to transmit ~~said~~the e-mail by transmitting a request to ~~said~~the mail server, the request using a GET method of a hyper text transfer protocol.